

REMARKS

Drawings

Applicants include drawings amended as suggested by the Examiner deleting the identifier "Fig. 1". Withdrawal of the objection to the drawings is respectfully requested.

Specification

The specification has been amended as suggested by the Examiner to correct informality by deleting the term "Fig. 1" or "Figure 1" and replacing with "the Figure". Withdrawal of the objection to the specification is respectfully requested.

Claims

Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 second paragraph as being indefinite. Claim 9 has been canceled and replaced by claim 21 depending on claim 20 to provide proper antecedent basis for the term "the watergas-shift step".

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,152,976 (Fong et al.) as evidenced by U.S. Patent No. 4,225,418 (Hilfman). It is believed that the above amendment to the claims obviates the rejection.

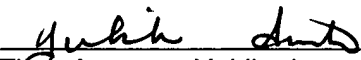
Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiner's finding that claims 7, 8, 16, 17 and 20 are allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have incorporated limitations of claim 7 in claim 1. Thus, canceling claim 7 as redundant. Claim 8, 16, 17, and 20 now depend on the amended claim 1 (that incorporated limitations of claim 7) to provide proper claim dependency.

It is believed that the above amendments to the claims obviate the 102(b) rejection. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 102 rejections.

It is believed that the application is now in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully requests that a Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If it would be considered helpful in resolving any issues in the case, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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